

In the event that one is not, applicants hereby make such petition and authorize the office to charge deposit account 16-1445 the required amount.

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the claims as amended are respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

Please amend the above-identified application as provided below.

Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the specification at page 1, line 13 as provided below.

ADAMTS proteins exhibit characteristics of the ADAM (A Disintegrin And Metalloprotease) family of metalloproteases, and in addition contain a thrombospondin domain (TS). The prototypic ADAMTS was identified in mouse, found to be expressed in heart and kidney and upregulated by proinflammatory stimuli (K. Kuno et al., *Molecular cloning of a gene encoding a new type of metalloproteinase-disintegrin family protein with thrombospondin motifs as a inflammation associated gene*, 272 Journal of Biological Chemistry 556 (January 1997)). To date eight members are recognized by the HUGO database (~~<http://www.gene.ucl.ac.uk/users/hester/adamts>~~) with sequence information available for all but two of these. Members of this family have the ability to degrade aggrecan, a high molecular weight proteoglycan which provides cartilage with important mechanical properties and which is lost during the development of arthritis.

Amendment to the Claims

Please amend claims 19-23 and 30-34. A complete listing of the claims in a revised format now permitted by the USPTO (revision to 37 CFR 1.121) is set forth below.

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)